The Uncommon Minister

Volume 2

by

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Table of Contents

1. Create The Habit of Listening To Scripture Tapes Daily.
2. Insist on Accuracy In Your Preaching.
3. Learn From The Unhappy Voices Around You.
4. Never Discuss In The Pulpit Anything You Want Others To Forget.
5. Identify Contentious People Involved In Your Ministry.
6. Secure The Best Office Equipment Possible For Your Ministry.
7. Value The Vows of Your People.
Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

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To avoid the burdensome verbage of him/her; his, hers throughout this book, the simple reference to all of mankind, male or female, is simply “he” or “him.”

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Create The Habit of Listening To Scripture Tapes Daily.

*Listening is different than reading.*

You cannot read and do other things at the same time. Reading requires total *focus*. You have to move away from everything else that you are doing.

However, listening can begin the moment you awaken. This is powerful.

While you are washing your face, *you can receive the words of Jesus into your spirit.*

While you are shaving, taking a bath or making up your bed, you can receive His words into the soil of your mind. Most of us take an hour or so to birth our day. That is 60 minutes that the holy words of God could be *washing your mind*.

His Word *cleanses.* (See John 15:3.)

His Word *energizes.* (Read Psalm 119:149,156.) His Word is *life.* (Read John 6:63.)

His Word *purges and purifies.* (See Psalm 119:9.) His Word *corrects you.* (See 2 Timothy 3:16.) His Word *warns.* (See Psalm 119:11.)

His Word *brings peace.* (Read Psalm 119:165.) His Word *births an invisible joy* that cannot be explained by anyone.
Here’s what has happened in my own life. Sometimes, I become so busy I delay taking my Bible and reading quietly in my Secret Place. I “explain” to the Lord that I will meet with Him later “when I can really concentrate and not be distracted by anything else.” (This procrastination has cost me dearly.) Listening to Scriptures on cassette tapes solves that problem immediately. Satan can throw many things at you, but the Word of God is still washing your mind, because of your daily habit of listening.

Listening is not a substitution for reading. You need both.

- Reading affects your thinking.
- Listening affects your feelings.
- Reading affects your mind.
- Listening influences your emotions.

His Word always creates marvelous results, regardless of how you receive it into your spirit. I have found that keeping tapes with me in motel rooms, next to my bed, and in my automobile really influences me.

Keep tapes in your car. They will discourage boring conversationalists who talk about trivia and other unimportant things. Also, it makes it possible to hear His Word separate from the clutter of business and home chores.

Keep tapes next to your bed. Sometimes, when I’m having difficulty sleeping, I will punch “play” on my cassette recorder and listen to the Scriptures. Words cannot describe how instantly an atmosphere and climate can change in your
bedroom when the Word of God fills up every corner!

*Keep tapes on your desk at your church.* Using your headphones, you will always find an opportunity to receive His Word into your spirit.

- Your ministry will change in direct proportion to the Words you are hearing from Him.
- Your personal joy will be proportionate to the Words you are hearing from Him.
- Your people will change proportionate to the passion you birth in them for the Word of God.

*Nobody else can do this for you.* You must pursue the Word of God for yourself. *Today.*

Somebody has said that it takes 56 hours to read the entire Bible through. Whatever it takes, do it. Do it today. Concentrate on developing this habit.

His Word is the most important thing you will hear today. It will change you and your ministry forever.

*Create The Habit Of Listening To Tapes Daily.*

It is One of the Secrets of The Uncommon Minister.
Insist on Accuracy In Your Preaching.

Accuracy really does matter:

Moses built the tabernacle. But the Golden Key was his accuracy in obedience to the pattern God gave him.

Noah built the ark. But the Golden Key was building it accurately, according to the command.

Solomon built the temple. But the important ingredient was building it according to the pattern that the Holy Spirit gave to David and him.

The Pharisees prayed. But their prayers were worthless. You see, it is not enough to simply pray. You must pray according to the will of God. The Pharisees fasted. But Jesus revealed a different set of instructions regarding the power of fasting. Attitude was everything.

The Uncommon Minister must invest the time and effort to be accurate every time he ministers.

Several years ago, a real tragedy occurred for a well-known ministry. The young man carried a real anointing on his ministry. He was expressive. Fiery. Opinionated. Purposeful. One day, he threw out some so-called facts and illustrations that were later proven libelous. He was sued for a huge amount of money. Though a settlement out of court might have
occurred, it created terrible distractions for himself, his staff, and his ministry. He lost many partners who did not really understand the warfare against him. His attention to **accuracy** would have prevented this tragic interruption and distraction in his ministry. I was once told that a well-known comedian had died. I used it for an illustration that night in the message only to find out later my source was completely wrong. He was still alive! It made me look like a fool and even sowed Seeds of doubt about the rest of my information to that congregation!

*Verify your facts, illustrations and statistics.* Yes, it will require additional time, effort, and possibly even research assistance. But it will keep a purity and believability to your message in the long-term.

*Confirm that any Scripture you use to prove your point really does prove what you are saying.* I remember an outstanding minister pointing this out years ago in a camp meeting. It really registered with me, though I was just a teenage boy of 15. Someone had said that Jesus left 99 sheep “in the fold.” The minister pointed out that the Bible did not say that at all. It said that He left 99 sheep “in the wilderness.” (See Luke 15:4.) I’ve heard ministers use quotations from Shakespeare and say that they were in the “Scriptures.” They were not. It is very easy to confuse well-known sayings as Scriptures. Confirm them before using them.

*When you are uncertain about the material, avoid using it, or announce your uncertainty about the information.* Obviously, when you are doing private Bible studies or midweek services, your spontaneity would be too stifled to
avoid referencing completely. But, always provide yourself a verbal disclaimer by mentioning that “someone told me, though I have not confirmed it.” Your feelings are not facts.

Your credibility is inseparable from your believability. It is so important that your people feel comfortable in believing what you are speaking.

Always distinguish to people between something you are feeling, as a man of God, and something God actually spoke to you. Ministers have been known to look at someone and say, “Your husband is coming back home to you. Relax and believe God.” Yet, that husband married someone else and never did return to the marriage. It devastated the lady who was hoping the “so-called” prophecy of the minister was correct. The path of Christianity is filled with wounded bodies of hopeful believers who trusted the word of a man of God who simply had a feeling about a situation, not a true word from God.

Intuition is not the Voice of the Spirit.

The Uncommon Minister must protect the hope of others. Their hope must be in the Word of God, not merely the fleeting feelings of the man of God. Pastors are faced with this much more often than traveling ministries. Many pastors have spent hours rebuilding the broken hopes of their people months after a traveling evangelist left who had “a special word from God.”

It is obvious you want to be an Uncommon Minister. That’s why you’re reading this. I urge you to learn the huge difference between your feelings and a true word from God for you or
through you.

*Insist On Accuracy In Your Preaching.*

It is One of the Secrets of The Uncommon Minister.
Learn From The Unhappy Voices Around You.

Unhappy people often birth uncommon ideas.

When you read the biography of great businesses, they always include the complaints of customers. Those complaints created changes, correction and ultimately, uncommon profits. You will often read success suggestions from uncommon entrepreneurs. Every extraordinary business champion states clearly, “Listen to your customers. They will tell you the problems that require solving.”

One of the most respected ministers in my life is my dear friend, Sherman Owens, from Sarasota, Florida. I will never forget his teaching: “Listen to happy voices for encouragement. Listen to unhappy voices for ideas.”

Joseph understood the secret of studying the unhappy. It was the secret of his promotion to the palace. Compassion was his dominant gift. When he noticed the downcast faces of two prisoners, he inquired and pursued an explanation. The butler and baker for Pharaoh explained their dreams. Joseph interpreted those dreams accurately. Two years later, Joseph was remembered by the butler for responding to his sorrowful countenance and dream. Joseph became Prime Minister within 24 hours.

You need encouraging voices to strengthen you.
You need *mentoring* voices to avoid mistakes.

You need *unhappy* voices for creativity and ideas.

*Listen to the unhappy in your church.* People are rarely angry for the reason they tell you. The unspoken must be pursued. The unexpressed must be given time and a season for expression. Take the time to inquire. Listen without judgment. Permit others to express their views, fears, and feelings. Was there a *broken promise*? Unfilled *expectations*? I still have a deep problem with those who make promises and continuously alter and change them.

Children find it almost impossible to deal with the burden of an unkept promise by their parents.

Unexpressed disappointment often becomes silent rage.

Silent rage often births retaliation and a strategy to destroy.

You cannot afford to permit The Unhappy to linger in that condition. Depression, suicide, and even murder has been the result.

*Listen to the unhappy on your staff.* What is the real reason for their lack of joy? You Cannot Solve A Problem That You Do Not See. The doctor cannot heal a wound he has not discovered. The lawyer cannot win a case that he does not understand.

Each moment of listening moves you closer to the miracle of solution.

*Never assume you understand the real cause of sorrows,*
despondency, or anger within others. Let me explain. I dearly loved a young couple that worked for me. Continuously, I looked for ways to bless them and encourage them. Occasionally, I would press a large bill in his hand at the airport and say, “Take your wife out to supper tonight.” Yet, their agitation persisted. Nothing was ever enough for them. After much thought, listening and study of their life, I discovered the following elements:

- They refused pastoral mentorship and faithful attendance to a local church.
- They refused to follow the principles of success that I taught them privately.
- They refused to attend sessions on financial prosperity held within minutes of their home.

Nothing you can say will satisfy the heart of the disobedient.

Many pastors could have retained and kept disgruntled sheep had they invested the appropriate time to listen long enough to understand them and their pain. On the other hand, many pastors would stop blaming themselves had they understood the deep-rooted problem in unhappy church members.

The best preacher on earth cannot solve the problem of the unteachable. The Unteachable Always Remain Unhappy. That’s why Jesus never pursued Pharisees. He never visited them when they were sick. Jesus went where He was desired, not where He was needed.
Do not invest more time in the unhappy than you do those who are supportive and encouraging to you. Too often, those who bless us are ignored. The satisfied are overlooked. The obnoxious often receive far too much time, energy and attention. Be sensitive. That’s why Jesus never gave long answers to Pharisees. He saved His time for Zacchaeus and the woman at the well—those who qualified for the Seed of His Attention.

It is not the responsibility of the Uncommon Minister to solve every problem for everyone around him. Jesus did not try. You cannot do it. You are human. Accept that. Do only what you are instructed by the Holy Spirit to do

Learn From The Unhappy Voices Around You.

It is One of the Secrets of The Uncommon Minister.
Never Discuss In The Pulpit Anything You Want Others To Forget.

Your words are pictures. Unforgettable pictures.

Your words enable thoughts to become permanent. It is dangerous to speak about things that do not really matter. Your words give life and longevity to anything discussed.

Words keep many things alive. Many arguments would die; many conflicts would die. But your words keep sustaining them.

8 Facts Every Minister Should Know About Words

1. Words Breathe Life Into Everything. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof” (Proverbs 18:21).

2. Words Can Wound. “The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly” (Proverbs 18:8).

3. Words Create Conflict. “A fools lips enter into contention” (Proverbs 18:6).

“A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends” (Proverbs 16:28).

5. **Right Words Can Breathe Health Into A Frail Body.**
“Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones” (Proverbs 16:24). “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life” (Proverbs 15:4).

6. **The Results Of Your Entire Ministry Will Be Impacted By The Words You Select.** “A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!” (Proverbs 15:23).

7. **Never Stay In The Presence Of People Speaking Wrong Words.** “Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceiveth not in him the lips of knowledge” (Proverbs 14:7).

8. **Any Inappropriate Words You Speak Will Often Be Remembered Longer Than Appropriate Words.** Several years ago, a minister had a devastating experience. False accusations were hurled at him. Emotionally shattered, he shared the experience publicly with some of his congregation. Most of them knew nothing about the false accusations, *until he had brought them out publicly*. It simply created more questions in their mind. Tiny doubts grew like small plants.

   “Were they really true after all? Maybe there is another side to the story? Is he telling us *everything*?”

   One by one, his supporters dissolved. Yes, the accusations were proven later to be false. But, the damage was done.

   *He had painted scenarios in their mind that time could not erase.* His words were photographs that satan could
nurture, feed, and grow in the privacy of their imagination.

A pastor in South Louisiana brought me to a beautiful home of a well-known evangelist many years ago. His wife came out and welcomed us warmly. When she disappeared in the back of the house to call for her husband, the pastor turned to me and said, “She was married to a famous baseball manager several years ago. Now, she is married to this evangelist.”

I was stunned. When she came back, that thought dominated my mind. She was warm and kind. The conversation was pleasant. But, in the coming days, every time I thought of this evangelist and his wife, I pictured her as married to this famous baseball manager.

A few days later, the pastor and I were driving together again. Suddenly, he said, “Oh, I made a mistake about that wife of the preacher a few days ago. I got her mixed up with someone else. She wasn’t married to anyone else before this evangelist.”

But the picture was already in concrete. That happened 25 years ago, and I am sitting here tonight in my Wisdom Room thinking about this couple. In my mind, she is still married to that baseball manager. The Seed has never quit growing.

You cannot stop everyone from discussing you. But never provide them information you want them to forget. Nothing.

Never give unnecessary information that requires, demands, or inspires pursuit of more questions.

Be cautious in confessing all your mistakes. Your attempts to “be open” may be very sincere. But your mistake may loom
bigger in their memory than the lesson you are trying to teach from it.

People often remember illustrations for the wrong reasons. *Never Discuss In The Pulpit Something You Want Others To Forget.*

It is One of the Secrets of The Uncommon Minister.
Identify Contentious People Involved In Your Ministry.

Conflict distracts.

Every minister knows this. When a staff member cannot get along with others, unity and productivity are diminished. Focus is broken. Projects are delayed. The spiritual progress of an entire church can be paralyzed.

Nothing is more harmful to your ministry than a contentious person. A contentious person often considers himself very honest and up front. In fact, they take pride in telling you “the way things really are.” Subconsciously, they are often modeling someone in their life (a father or mother) who accomplished their goals through intimidation. They admire this person and have decided to follow that pattern. Unfortunately, they failed to see the losses created.

13 Facts Every Minister Should Recognize About Contentious People

1. Contentious People Often Destroy The Momentum, Bonding, And Synergy That Unity Creates. “Mark them which cause divisions and offenses...avoid them” (Romans 16:17. See 2 Timothy 2:24 also.)

2. Contentious People Nullify The Law Of Agreement, The Greatest Law Of Success On Earth. “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their
labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe unto him that is alone when he falls; for he hath not another to help him up” (Ecclesiastes 4:9,10).

3. **The True Character Of A Contentious Person Is Rarely Revealed Until You Rebuke Them.** If he is a scorner and fool, he will hate you. If he is a wise person simply needing correction, he will love you. “Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee” (Proverbs 9:8).

4. **You Can Succeed Almost Anywhere Else, Except With A Contentious Person.** Solomon experienced this. “It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house” (Proverbs 25:24).

5. **Contentious People Discuss The Business Of Others.** “He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears” (Proverbs 26:17).

6. **A Contentious Person Enjoys Debate, Disputing And Opposing Whatever Has Been Spoken.** A contentious person always looks for a reason to disagree. They *ignore* every point of agreement.

7. **A Contentious Person Is Always The Door For Satan To Launch Every Evil Work In Your Ministry.** “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work” (James 3:16).

8. **A Contentious Person Is Not Walking In Wisdom.** “But the Wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits,
without partiality, and without hypocrisy” (James 3:17).

9. *A Contentious Attitude Is Contagious.* When someone permits the spirit of conflict to enter their life, they will affect everyone around them. I have seen a peaceful household turn to argument 30 minutes after someone entered the room. Happy congregations become chaotic and embittered when one “talebearer” joined the church.

10. *Unthankfulness Always Births A Contentious Attitude.* It is the sin that God abhors. It was the *first* sin. Satan was unthankful for his position and chose to fight for dominion.

11. *Ingratitude Is Poisonous.* It can destroy a family within weeks. It can ruin a successful ministry within months. Churches exploding with growth have been fragmented within weeks when a spirit of ingratitude invaded the congregation.

12. *Contentious People Often Sabotage The Work Of God.* Many years ago I heard one of the most startling statements from a famous missionary. I was sitting under some huge trees in East Africa. Monkeys were jumping from limb to limb.

   “Mike, the number one reason missionaries do not stay on the mission field is their inability to get along with the other missionaries working in their same territory.”

   Think about it. Missionaries who should stay in love with Jesus, obsessed with bringing the gospel to the lost, return home *because of arguments* and the failure to create harmony and an environment of agreement.

13. *Any Contentious Person Who Refuses To Change Must Be Removed.* “Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so
where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife. The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly” (Proverbs 26:20-22).

Stop any conversation birthing contention. Immediately speak up and interrupt the conversation with statements like, “Oh, it is wonderful how God will turn this for our good! I am so thankful for what God is about to do in this situation! Don’t we have a wonderful God!” It will be like throwing cold water on a destructive fire.

Boldly confront the contentious about their attitude. Others are bold enough to poison your atmosphere and climate with arrows of unthankfulness piercing the air. Dominate your turf. Take charge. Use your words to turn the tide.

Agreement is one of the greatest enemies satan fears.

Identify Contentious People Involved In Your Ministry.

It is One of the Secrets of The Uncommon Minister.
Secure The Best Office Equipment Possible For Your Ministry

Proper equipment increases your productivity.

I am holding in my hand a microcassette. You see, I can speak six times faster than I can write. If one of my staff was sitting here receiving my dictation, I would be tying up their time for hours. My associate would have to wait for me, time would be wasted and I would feel the pressure of producing and making their moments count. Instead, this microcassette frees them to finish other tasks. Proper machines really help.

Never have someone do a job that a machine can do instead. There are numerous and wonderful reasons for this. Machines cannot think and make judgments in flexible situations. Humans can. So I try to free the time of my staff as much as possible to do those things, and use the machines to do other tasks.

Enjoy these 10 humorous reasons for using proper machines.

10 Reasons To Invest In Quality Equipment

1. Machines Do Not Require Coaxing, Merely Repair.

2. Machines Don’t Get Discouraged And Disheartened When Their Mother-In-Law Comes To Town.

4. Your Machines Will Not File Grievance Reports Against You With Employment Commissions When You Fail To Meet Their Expectations.

5. Machines Do Not Require Medical Insurance, Sick Leaves And Time Off.

6. Machines Can Be Replaced Quickly And Easily.

7. Machines Do Not Request A Retirement Fund And Want To Be Paid For The Years Ahead When It Cannot Perform.

8. Machines Never Come To Work Late And Then Ask To Leave Early.


10. Machines Never Interrupt The Productivity Of Other Machines When They Are Not Being Used.

This was not my philosophy in my early ministry. In fact, I often refused to purchase expensive equipment. Consequently, it increased the load on my staff. Looking back, this was ludicrous. But, at the time, I felt like it provided work for more staff people. Now, I recognize that people are needed to supervise the machines and equipment. This increases their own productivity and worth.

That’s why I continuously instruct my staff:

Find the most effective equipment possible to do your
present job. Telephone other businesses or ministries. Attend seminars and workshops. Whatever it takes to do your job more efficiently, more accurately and quickly—tell me. I will do anything possible to make the hours of my employees more effective and productive.

Continuously evaluate your productivity. What is slowing you down? What machine could make a big difference in the completion of your daily tasks and responsibilities?

Present me with options to your present equipment.

When you become computer-minded, equipment oriented and aware of the remarkable inventions of our day, you will increase the productivity of your ministry dramatically. Your staff will treasure it and learn to appreciate their own work load reduction because of it. It decreases their opportunities for mistakes. It increases the standardization of their work.

Secure The Best Office Equipment Possible For Your Ministry.

It is One of the Secrets of The Uncommon Minister.
Value The Vows of Your People.

Vows matter greatly to God.

Vows are not playful moments.

Vows are the catalyst for miracles. “When thou vowest a vow to God, defer not to pay it; for He hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow than thou shouldest vow and not pay” (Ecclesiastes 5:4,5).

Promise Breakers are fools.

Promise Makers are wise.

Promise Keepers are rewarded. Always.

4 Facts Every Minister Should Know About Vows And Covenants

1. God Is A Covenant God. He makes agreements and contracts with those who honor His integrity.

2. Uncommon Champions Often Make Uncommon Vows To God. One of the most effective mentors ever, Dr. Lester Sumrall, made a vow to God. He believed that he would die unless he kept that vow. He told God that if He would heal him, he would preach this gospel the rest of his life. He kept that vow and blessed millions. God always guarantees blessings to those who observe and “do all His commandments”
3. Vows Will Often Emerge During The Season Of A Special Anointing Or Challenge Of Faith By A Man Of God. I was sitting at the table with Oral Roberts. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit rose up strong for me to sow an unforgettable and uncommon Seed into his life. Why? The anointing upon him was the magnet that unleashed my own faith.

While sitting in a conference, a man of God challenged the ministers present to plant an unusual Seed. My heart leaped. I sowed the Seed and experienced an incredible encounter with the Holy Spirit less than 30 days later.

4. Encourage Your People To Keep Their Vows To The Work Of God. Don’t be discouraged when many vows are not kept. Everyone requires teaching. Everyone becomes discouraged.

Recently, a pastor friend lamented the lack of follow through on the faith promises of people. He was agitated and almost critical.

“Many of my people are not completing their faith promises. Thousands of dollars are promised to the work of God, and they are not completing these vows.”

I inquired, “Think for a moment. What did you do following the service when they came forward to the altar and made those faith promises?”

Total silence. He had done nothing. I explained patiently to him that when anyone comes into the presence of God, their faith will ignite. Hope leaps. Doubt evaporates. When your people come into the presence of God, they receive glimpses of
their next season. They are ecstatic, stirred and excited. Remember, when the Israelites received an inward photograph of Canaan, their energy exploded. Life becomes exciting because of the dominant picture in your heart.

“When your people left the church service, that anointing received an attack,” I explained. “They entered the world of their business, television reports and relatives who voiced doubt, sarcasm and even unbelief. Their faith always takes a beating following their step toward God.”

He was puzzled but I continued. “When your people make faith promises, they are reacting to the supernatural presence of God. The Holy Spirit has spoken to their heart. They respond to His voice with acts of faith. But when they return to their homes, the climate changes. The atmosphere becomes adversarial. Their families bicker, quarrel, and even become angry over their step of faith. Many of your people endure sarcastic words from relatives about the church, prosperity preachers, and televangelists.”

I encouraged him to remember this and value the vows of his people.

It is One of the Secrets of the Uncommon Minister.
When God wants to touch a nation, He raises up a preacher. It is Uncommon Men and Women of God who have driven back the darkness and shielded the unlearned and rebellious from devastation by satanic forces. They offer the breath of life to a dead world. They open Golden Doors to Change. They unleash Forces of Truth in an age of deception.

An Uncommon Minister is prepared through Seasons of Pain, Encounters with God, and Mentors. Having sat at the feet of Uncommon Mentors his entire life, Dr. Mike Murdock shares practical but personal keys to increase the excellence and productivity of your ministry. Each volume of “The Uncommon Minister” is handy, convenient and easy to read. Your load will be lighter, your journey happier, and your effectiveness increased in “doing the will of the Father.”

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.” Isaiah 61:1

DR. MIKE MURDOCK is in tremendous demand as one of the most dynamic speakers in America today. More than 17,000 audiences in over 100 countries have attended his Schools of Wisdom and Conferences. Hundreds of invitations come to him from churches, colleges and business corporations. He is a noted author of over 250 books, including the best sellers, The Leadership Secrets of Jesus, Secrets of the Richest Man Who Ever Lived and the creator of The Master 7 Mentorship Program. Thousands view his weekly television program, Wisdom Keys with Mike Murdock. Many attend his Schools of Wisdom that he hosts in major cities...and his church, The Wisdom Center located at 4051 Denton Highway, Fort Worth, TX 76117.